

Appln No. 09/722,148
Amdt. Dated October 7, 2004
Response to Office action of August 17, 2004

10

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the Office Action dated August 17, 2004.

SPECIFICATION

The missing application numbers have been inserted on pages 4, 6 and 9 of the description.

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claim 1 has been amended to specify that the "server" is a "network server". Basis for this amendment can be found in, for example, Figure 1. Claim 12 has been similarly amended to specify a network server.

Claim 1 now also specifies that the network server stores data relating to pending print jobs and retrieves or generates an electronic summary of the pending print jobs. Basis for these amendments can be found at page 8, lines 4-6 and page 8, lines 22-24 of the description.

The dependencies of claims 10 and 12 have been amended, in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion.

CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 USC § 103

The present invention relates to a system in which a printer receives printing commands from a network server. The network server is able to sense when the printer is in "vacation" mode and change the commands it sends to the printer accordingly. If the network server detects that the printer is in "vacation" mode, it stores print jobs (generated periodically by the server) until such time that the printer returns to "normal" mode. Once the printer returns to "normal" mode, the network server sends a print job to the printer, which provides a summary of the print jobs missed whilst the printer was in its "vacation" mode.

It is envisaged by the present Applicant that the printer, as described above, will take the place of periodical newspapers and the like being delivered manually to recipients' homes. Using the Applicant's printers, newspapers may be delivered directly from a network server to recipients' homes. Furthermore, in the same way that a recipient can notify a newsagent that he or she is away on vacation and requires no deliveries during that period, the printer

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11

of the present invention is, likewise, able to notify the network server of a recipient's vacation.

Tang et al. (US 6,160,629)

Tang describes a printer having a storage capability, which allows it to store print jobs indefinitely. This is explained at column 4, lines 5-64 of Tang and particularly column 4, lines 37-39, where it is stated:

Job retention, generally, is the printer's ability to store a print job on the printer's disk drive or other data storage device. The print job is then available to the user for future printing. [emphasis added]

In other words, Tang describes a specially adapted printer having its own disk drive or CD memory device. The memory device forms part of the controller/formatter 22, which is contained inside the printer (see column 4, lines 5-6 and Figure 2 of Tang).

In his Office Action, the Examiner considers the controller/formatter of Tang to be equivalent to the "server" in the present invention. The server in the present invention is quite clearly a network server, which is not part of the printer. The Applicant considers claim 1, as originally filed, to be clear in this respect. However, in deference to the Examiner's objection, claim 1 now specifies that the server is a network server. Moreover, claim 1 now unambiguously specifies that the network server is responsible for storing and/or retrieving print jobs, and not a controller/formatter forming part of the printer itself.

It is submitted that the present invention, as defined in claims 1 and 12, is not obvious from the disclosure of Tang. Tang is wholly concerned with providing a printer with a memory storage device, which enables more efficient computer processing during printing. At column 1, lines 14-24, Tang explains that the use of a single processor in a computer to perform print request functions, as well as various data collection or organization, inevitably impacts on the speed of the processor when it is processing print requests. Tang seeks to alleviate slow processing times for non-printing operations when the computer is processing print requests. Tang's solution is to provide a printer having its own memory storage device.

Appln No. 09/722,148
Amdt. Dated October 7, 2004
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12

The skilled person, having read Tang, would not be motivated to modify the system disclosed therein and store print jobs on a network server responsible for sending print jobs to a printer. Indeed, Tang specifically teaches away from such a system, because according to Tang this would slow the normal operation of the server by consuming memory. In reality, however, the slower operation of the server will be infinitesimally small when the server is a central network server rather than, for example, a personal computer envisaged by Tang.

In summary, Tang is merely teaching a printer having its own memory storage device. By contrast, the present invention relates to a system suitable for receiving periodicals via a network server adapted for that purpose. The system allows for users to notify the server of vacation periods with the server modifying its output accordingly. The skilled person would have been unable to arrive at the present invention from the teaching of Tang, either taken alone or in combination with Barrett *et al.* Accordingly, it is submitted that the present invention is not obvious in view of the cited prior art.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's objections have been successfully traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the application is courteously solicited.

Very respectfully,

Applicant:



KIA SILVERBROOK

Applicant:



PAUL LAPSTUN

C/o:

Silverbrook Research Pty Ltd
393 Darling Street
Balmain NSW 2041, Australia

Email:

kia.silverbrook@silverbrookresearch.com

Telephone:

+612 9818 6633

Facsimile:

+61 2 9555 7762